Daily Report

Latin America

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SELA Meets, Discusses U.S. Embargo Against Cuba, Other Issues

Resolution Urges Ending Embargo

PA1307215095 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1853 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Salvador, 13 Jul (ACAN-EFE) — The Latin American Economic System (SELA) today called on the United States to lift the economic, trade, and financial blockade against Cuba, and it rejected U.S. legislative moves to broaden sanctions against Cuba.

The SELA resolution, which was adopted today in San Salvador, states that there is a "need to reaffirm, among other principles, the sovereign equality of states, noninterference in their internal affairs, and free trade and navigational standards as established in a number of international legal instruments."

The Latin American organization, which today concludes its 11th regular meeting, noted that despite international opposition, "new moves are under way to increase the effects of the blockade, whose extraterritorial nature harms the sovereignty of other states, as well as the interests of institutions and people under the jurisdiction of those states."

On 11 July, the U.S. House of Representatives approved [as received] a draft bill entitled "Cuban Liberty and Democracy Solidarity Act of 1995," which is designed to broaden economic sanctions imposed against the island more than 30 years ago.

SELA, which comprises 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries, noted that this draft bill "violates international law, the most elemental principles of regional coexistence, and internationally recognized freedom of trade and navigation."

The draft bill proposed earlier this year by Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Dan Burton, both Republicans, calls for denying visas to foreigners who negotiate or invest in Cuba, as well as prohibiting sugar imports from countries that buy this commodity from the island, among other measures.

The Latin American organization reiterated its support for a UN resolution dated 8 November 1994 which endorses the elimination of unilateral laws and economic and trade measures "incongruent with the UN Charter and international law."

New SELA Secretary Discusses Issues

PA1407034595 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2007 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Salvador, 13 Jul (ACAN-EFE) — Argentine Carlos Moneta, new permanent secretary general of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), declared today, Thursday, in San Salvador that the region must seek different investments from various parts of the world in order to achieve sustainable economic development.

Moneta, 56, with a degree in international relations, was elected by acclamation by representatives of the 27 SELA member countries, who today concluded their 21st regular meeting in Salvador; the meeting began last Monday.

The official, who will replace current SELA secretary Mexican Salvador Arriola next October, stated that the challenges facing the organization center on regional development regarding commerce, finances, social area, and technology. In this regard, he considered it important that Latin American and Caribbean nations take steps to attract countries or blocs of nations that may make long-term investments in the region. Among them, Moneta made special reference to Japan and other Asian countries.

Moneta remarked that "we all see" what Asian countries export to Latin America, but "we don't see what they may import; it is a region that has remained nearly untouched."

The official considered the foreign debt, which grew significantly over the last 14 years and now totals $533 million [figure as received], as one of the most worrisome problems of the region.

Regarding the SELA's resolution urging the United States to lift the economic, commercial, and financial blockade on Cuba, Moneta concluded that "relations between states are sovereign and sanctions violate international law."

Agreements on Regional Integration

PA1407034895 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2156 GMT 13 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] San Salvador, 13 Jul (ACAN-EFE) — The 21st regular meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) concluded today, 13 July, in San Salvador with numerous agreements to promote the region's economic development within the framework of the new challenges the world's globalization process poses.

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One of the meeting's most important resolutions, given the high poverty level in the Latin American population, was to continue with and intensify the efforts to improve the formulation, execution, and evaluation of integrated economic and social policies.

Mexican Salvador Arriola, SELA permanent secretary, said at a news conference held at the end of the meeting — that began on 10 July at a San Salvador hotel — that the resolutions intensify diversification in Latin America.

In this regard, he explained that the region must not concentrate only on the Pan-American or European relations. The 27 SELA members recommended to the organization holding a seminar with Japan in order to seek investments.

Arriola said it is necessary for the Latin American countries to also have the opportunity for their businessmen to be able to conduct businesses, with tangible and technical elements, and, above all, to lure Japanese investments to Latin America and the Caribbean "as soon as possible."

Regarding the Latin American and Caribbean debt, which doubled in the last 14 years and which amounts to $533 billion, he explained that the permanent secretariat was instructed to inform the member states on the situation, especially on the "intensification of mechanisms to increase domestic savings in the countries."

The SELA Council entrusted the permanent secretariat to continue to follow up on the regional integration process and to carry out activities aimed at strengthening it.

The official announced that the Council authorized the continuation of courses on integration — as the one held in January in Panama for Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean — in which officials and businessmen participated.

Regarding continental trade, the follow-up on the execution of the "action plan" and the mandates that emerged at the meeting of trade ministers held in Denver in late June and their implications for the countries of the region was recommended.

In addition, SELA was asked to follow up on the coordination with the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), and other organizations that follow up the many regional and subregional integration processes.

Arriola affirmed that the Council particularly recommended the participation of SELA in the working group studying the "smaller economies." This group was established in the Denver meeting.

The Latin American Council supported following up on the events occurring in the United States regarding economic and trade policies, placing special emphasis on those that adversely affect the interests of SELA members, such as the implementation of the "301 Super Amendment," the tuna fish embargo, and the economic blockade on Cuba.

SELA urged the United States to lift the existing economic, commercial, and financial blockade on Cuba and rejected the draft bill already approved by the House of Representatives that intends to toughen the embargo by penalizing those countries or businesses that negotiate with or invest in the island.

Of the 27 SELA members, only El Salvador and the Dominican Republic abstained from backing the organization's statement. According to Victor Lagos, Salvadoran deputy foreign relations minister, "the United States has the freedom to approve its own laws."

The final report of the 21st SELA meeting stated that a study containing a detailed description of the region's ties with each state of the United States and the Canadian provinces will be conducted in an effort to pinpoint common interests and potential areas in economic, commercial, financial, and technological matters.

As for relations with the EU, which in the last few years have become the main source of financing for the region's development, the Council approved the works the Rio Group (in which all Latin America is participating) carried out with the bloc of European nations.

Parlacen Backs End to U.S. Embargo, Closer Ties With Cuba

PA1407030395 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0119 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jul (ACAN-EFE) — The Central American Parliament (Parlacen) is urging the United States to "review" with "seriousness and pragmatism" a solution to Cuba's isolation, a deputy of the regional forum stated here today.

Guatemalan Fernando Munoz, member of P[illegible]cen's Human Rights Commission, said the Parlacen [illegible]tion is aimed at halting the "absurd and unworka[illegible]lock-ade" the Caribbean country has suffered bec[illegible]f the United States.

The Central American deputy added that in l[illegible] August the Parlacen will propose to the governments [illegible]e isth-mus that commercial and cultural ties be st[illegible]gthened with the Cuban people, who are mired in a crisis of "deprivation and poverty."

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The Parlacen position was announced as part of a declaration that supports the diplomatic opening between the United States and Vietnam following nearly 20 years of estrangement and political tension.

Meanwhile, the 21st meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) held in the Salvadoran capital also endorsed ending sanctions against Cuba. Only El Salvador and the Dominican Republic abstained from supporting the request that the United States lift the economic blockade against the island's regime.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Congress is getting ready to discuss a tightening of the trade embargo that includes sanctions against countries that maintain relations with Cuba.

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Cuba

Officials, Media Air Concerns Over Helms-Burton Bill

Robaina Says Bill 'Blackmail'

PA1307193995 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1814 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 13 Jul (PL) — Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said today in this capital that all the variants of the Torricelli law are bad for Cuba.

The minister said this to local and foreign media when commenting on the steps the United States may adopt in the immediate future on an alleged flexibility in the blockade against Cuba inspired by the Torricelli law.

Robaina dismissed official reaction to this and added that if Washington were not to amend the punitive measures of 20 August 1994 adopted during the rafters' crisis, all that would happen is that the right of Cubans residing in the United States, to have contact with their country and relatives, would be reestablished.

It is necessary to move on to a phase that would eliminate prejudice and establish civilized conversation, and Cuba has no objection to this, Robaina said in response to a question.

Regarding the new round of Cuban-U.S. migration talks, which will begin Monday, the minister said this mirrors a will to comply with reached agreements.

Robaina said the partial elections that have taken place on the island represent a majority vote for Cuba's system and government.

Anyhow, he said, Cuba is a huge polling place where everyday the people vote by working for its development and by resisting those who want to make the island give in.

The minister criticized the Helms-Burton bill approved by the House Foreign Relations Committee, which wants to tighten the economic siege against the Caribbean nation. He called this commission a "legislative Frankenstein."

Robaina recalled that only Cubans can decide what type of democracy they want for the country and affirmed that, while in many nations there are chiefs of state who hold power with a minimum of votes, as low as 17 percent, in Cuba, the delegates (aldermen) must secure at least 50 percent of the votes.

No free country can permit the taking of orders and impositions from governments abroad, and in Cuba, Robaina said, we passed the dignity and liberty test a long time ago. Robaina stated this in commenting on the Helms-Burton bill, which he described as blackmail against the countries that trade with Cuba.

Talks With U.S. Accorded Priority

FL1407024895 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Statements by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina during a news conference on the morning of 13 July in Havana; from the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina held a news conference today in which he spoke about the upcoming talks on migration issues. Our correspondent Delia Sardinas has more details:

[Sardinas] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, in a dialogue with reporters, referred to the upcoming migration talks that will take place in this capital.

[Begin Robaina recording] The proximity of the upcoming round of migration talks simply reflects the will manifested by the Cuban side and by the U.S. side to fulfill the agreements. The 2 May agreements represent an important step in the recognition of something that for a long time we believed we could talk about with the U.S. side. In this, we found understanding, respect, and even more than that, there is a will to fulfill those agreements and they are being fulfilled. [end recording]

[Sardinas] Foreign Minister Robaina Gonzalez stated that Cuba has given the talks on migration issues priority — the level required for them, underscoring that no other talks are being held, on or under any other table.

[Begin Robaina recording] From the very beginning, we gave the talks the priority and the experience that we believed this subject between Cuba and the United States deserves. Now, (?the fact that) the United States began or has continued to do so does not cease to be an interesting point. Now — and it is important to mention for the benefit of the world of speculation — I know that all Cuba and the United States have to do is to begin discussing an issue for the rest of the world to speculate that it is not only talks about the migration agreement or what was discussed at the negotiating table. There is a lot of interest in whether other negotiations are being held at another table or under the table. This is completely false. We are simply continuing with the migration issue as an important element of communication and respect. We have told the whole world that Cuba is willing to discuss any other issue so long as there is respect, even if our points of views are totally different.

I would say that we cannot speak of stagnation in migration talks. Instead I would say that we can

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talk about progress and continuation of the migration agreements. But that agreement and those relations do not in any way represent the opening of channels for the discussion of other issues. [end recording]

[Sardinas] Robaina went on to discuss the Helms-Burton Bill:

[Begin Robaina recording] I hope that there is still time, and above all, courage for those in the United States who can still put a stop to the attempt to impose this stringent bill [hipoteca] that would affect forever any hope of good relations with Cuba, for which there is no lack of will among Cubans. In any case, Cuba will continue voting and living in its own way. I hope reason triumphs over brutality. I hope, as the poet says, that something happens to erase [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Cuba, U.S. Votes 'Same Thing,' 'in Reverse'

PA1407041995 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Report by Barbara Betancourt on news conference by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina in Havana on 13 July; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez today appeared at the regularly scheduled news conference spokesman Miguel Alfonso holds at the Foreign Ministry every week. He came to share his thoughts regarding two totally divergent votes that were connected by fate within two days of one another — namely, the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] partial elections on Sunday, and the approval on Tuesday of the Helms-Burton bill by the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee.

[Robaina] "If we examine this carefully, and this is the conclusion I wanted to make, we can see that there were votes this week in Washington and in Cuba for the same thing, but in reverse. Here, a much more important representative congress exists. Over 7 million congressmen voted for their nation, their revolution, their future and their dreams, their democracy, liberty, and independence. They voted against renewed imperial and annexationist sanctions.

"There, fewer than 30 people turned their thumbs down, as in the Roman amphitheater, in favor of hate, vengeance, punishment, and death for 11 million people in a nation where they surely hardly know anyone. It is certain that a long road lies ahead in the legislative and executive branches for final approval of the anti- Cuban bill.

"Some good friends of Cuba from inside the United States itself, who know their country well and know the weaknesses and inconsistencies of this model democracy, have advised us to do something to let the U.S. Congress know that the majority of Cubans has never supported the blockade, as the gangsters in Miami claim so freely in the press, and that even fewer approve of this new political obscenity."

In his opening statement, Robaina said that if anyone was hoping to tally the total number of blank ballots, annulled ballots, and those who did not cast their vote, and then argue that this is the amount of Cubans who oppose the island's political system, much to their chagrin they would have to conclude that only 14.1 percent of the people oppose the system. In other words, the recently elected local authorities will rule with the support of 86 percent of Cubans over 16 years of age. Based on these figures the Cuban foreign minister pointed out where the real political confrontation lies.

[Robaina] "The political confrontation lies mainly in the enormous machinery that seeks, from abroad, to direct those who are trying from inside the country to undermine the authority — to undermine that which Cubans believe gives them power to safeguard their status as a nation, to guard their sovereignty, and to protect their independence. I say there is a struggle for power, or what we Cubans call power, because there have been attacks against that power structure — not only with the House vote, but through efforts from abroad to encourage things to explode from within.

"What has cost the Cuban people dearly will not be readily turned around by the Cuban people. The question was not one of voting or not voting, or whether to nullify votes or leave them blank. There is a long 35-year history in which, along with this struggle for power, there also has been a permanent struggle financed, led, orchestrated, and encouraged from abroad — a struggle unfortunately based in other countries. I say unfortunately because their priorities are based on the demands of foreigners, not the demands of the Cuban people and the Cuban nation. I believe this is where this struggle for power lies. Unfortunately, as long as the country lives under its current conditions, it has no other alternative but to express itself in the manner it is expressing itself today." [passage omitted covered by previous item]

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U.S.' Nationalized Property Recovery Hopes Viewed

FL1307002395 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Studio discussion between anchorman Julio Acanda and correspondent Carlos Iglesias; from the "NTV" newscast — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Acanda] Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafael Dausa rejects the Foreign Affairs Committee's approval of the Helms-Burton bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. The committee, chaired by Dan Burton, passed the bill — 28 to 9, with four abstentions — yesterday after having postponed the vote five times. The bill will be debated in the House of Representatives, Senate committees, and the Senate, before it is finally voted on. The committee arrived at its decision despite the international community's rejection of the bill.

One of the bill's primary objectives is to recover properties that Cuba nationalized in 1960. I want to speak with Carlos Iglesias on this issue. Good afternoon.

[Iglesias] Good afternoon. Julio, I must start by saying that the United States could have negotiated compensation for the properties at that time. However, it closed the doors to any agreement. The nationalizations were based on Article 40 of the 1940 Constitution and on Cuba's sovereignty. Law 851, which dates back to 6 July 1960 — the law celebrated its 35th anniversary not too long ago — states that compensation would be met with 25 percent of the sugar quota. However, Washington demanded immediate payment. This is not in line with international law. They were confident back then that they could achieve their goals by force. They also canceled [retiro] the sugar quota, making all agreement impossible. They also denied their own citizens any chance for compensation.

[Acanda] I understand that other countries chose a different path.

[Iglesias] Yes, that is correct. Switzerland and France signed an agreement in 1967, the United Kingdom in 1978, and Canada in 1980. All of these countries have received compensation for nationalized properties. Spain signed in 1988 and will have received all compensation by 2008.

[Acanda] Then we could say that the legality of nationalization is obvious?

[Iglesias] Yes. Here's another fact: The U.S. Supreme Court recognized Cuba's nationalization efforts in an 8 to 1 vote in the Sabatino case of 1964. This concerned litigation involving sugar sales and payment. That is why the Helms-Burton bill is part of the extreme right-wing tendency prevalent in the United States and is trying to undo social accomplishments in that country. This was accomplished recently by the U.S. Congress — now of a conservative character — via some of the steps that had been taken toward racial integration.

[Acanda] Many thanks to Carlos Iglesias, our international politics expert.

Workers Collective Condemns Bill

FL1307130795 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Interview with Politburo Member Jorge Lezcano Perez, place and date not given; from the "NTV" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Workers of the Jose Marti Metallurgic Enterprise and Antillana de Acero called the Cuban people to a new declaration against the shameful Helms-Burton bill.

The collective agreed to send President Clinton, Congress, and U.S. Steel workers a document signed by all the workers condemning the bill.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified worker] I came to work in Antillana de Acero in 1961. At that time, I took up arms to defend the fatherland. If I have to take up arms another ten times, I am willing to do so. If I have to shed my blood and die for my fatherland, I am willing to do so. So, let them do whatever they want, but I will defend my democracy because I believe we do have a democracy. A democracy that no one will ever be able to take away from us. [applause]

[Lezcano] The only thing that has happened is that they have completed a procedure, one among many, which must go through the U.S. congress. This proposal must now go to the House Ways and Means Committee, which must consider whether or not this bill has any implications on other U.S. laws, or whether it violates or contradicts U.S. laws or international laws. Therefore, based on all these procedures, it must still go through several considerations before it is approved. [end recording]

Perception of U.S. as 'More Than Ultras' Seen

FL1307125395 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Commentary by Fernando Davalos; from the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the last few weeks in Cuba we have received several visits of solidarity and support from the United States. This pleases us very much.

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Many times, we have heard only thunder from the United States and even now we receive prohibitions, hostility, absurdities, and bad attitudes. We Cubans could write thousands of sad stories about the things we have received from over there during 30 years of revolution, only because the United States has not wanted to assimilate our independence. Such unjust warfare [guerra], necessarily and sadly, has permeated into everyone's most common assumptions. We unwillingly find ourselves making negative associations with what is over there. Over there, it seems they do not like us — again I repeat — because some do not want to acknowledge that Cuba is a free nation and that its people chose the system they want. This does not seem absurd, but in reality it is; but reality is what makes us see also that in the United States there are also rational, sensitive, and noble people.

Notwithstanding so much adverse and slandering publicity against Cuba, there are people there who love and respect us. For example, the solidarity caravans and international volunteer work brigades currently arriving in Cuba. This encourages us and brings us hope, which seemed to have been lost somewhere down the extreme right's entwined paths. People like Pastors for Peace make us see that the United States is more than ultras who supply weapons to fascists who blow up buildings, organize commando raids on us during the night, or who support those who frenzily cry out for stronger policies against Cuba.

Fortunately, this type of thing underscores the intelligence and goodwill of those from the United States and many other places around the world who extend a friendly hand to us.

Commentary Claims Bill Right Wing 'Scheme'

FL1307162095 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Commentary by Fernando Davalos: "The Last Word"; from the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, news from the United States came in reporting that a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives had approved the Helms-Burton bill. This does not mean it is now a law, but only that it has completed another step toward achieving its goal of intensifying the economic war against Cuba and the blockade. This is the scheme the fundamentalists of the U.S. right wing employ, with the support of their counterpart Cuban emigres, to overthrow — to try to overthrow — the government of Cuba, destroy the Revolution, finalize their conquest and again make us a U.S. protectorate.

This little idea of waging economic war and blockading us, comes from the hypothesis that by creating problems for the population, it will turn against the Revolution. By this I mean, the harder it gets for us, the more privations, and the more difficulties we face, the sooner they will reach their counter-revolutionary goal. They know very little about us. I do not know if they have always been deaf and dumb or maybe they are playing crazy just to live off this war.

Last Sunday's elections speak for themselves and are an answer to Helms and Burton's dim-witted proposal.

We must point out that this approval is not the U.S. Congress' last word. There are sane people there too. It is not the U.S. administration's last word either. They have also evidenced sanity. We will see, but we do not hold any hopes because over there anything can happen, no matter how absurd. In any case, here we did say the last word, however, I won't repeat it because it was harsh and graphic. In any case, it was properly used. Those listening can try to guess what it was. We Cubans are not afraid and we spoke out on Sunday with our votes, whether they like it or not.

'Moderate' U.S. Voices Assessed

FL1307140095 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Telephone Interview with Cuban reporter Lazaro Farinas in Miami by correspondent Zenaida Costales; from the "Exclusive" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Costales] I wanted to talk about a subject that must have been covered by many press agencies in the United States. I am referring to the House Foreign Affairs Committee passing the Helms-Burton bill yesterday. What have the repercussions of this approval been in the past 24 hours?

[Farinas] Good evening, Zenaida. Yes, this has been another step in the long chain through which the bill must go through before it is presented to the plenum of the House of Representatives. Here in Miami, there has been a lot of excitement and celebration among the most reactionary groups of the Miami Cuban community. They have been celebrating from the very beginning, when it was approved by the subcommittee. They are all excited that the House has maintained the same position in spite of the fact that President Clinton has said that he would veto the bill if it were approved by the plenum of the House. I do not think that anybody here, in their right mind, actually thinks that they have the two-thirds vote of the House of Representatives needed to bypass the presidential veto. I believe the right wing in Miami — the most reactionary segment of the

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community — is declaring victory before the battle is over. They have been celebrating since it was passed by the subcommittee. I believe it will be very difficult for them to pass the bill. Charles Rangel is there and he is a staunch opponent of the U.S. embargo on Cuba and of course he is a person who is completely against the Helms-Burton bill.

[Costales] It is no secret that the Cuban community abroad is heterogeneous. We know that there are voices that are heard and others that are not. I would like to know your opinion about the part that is sometimes a bit silent, that maintains a moderate position towards Cuba.

[Farinas] I believe that the voices that exist in Miami are waiting to see what will happen in the House Ways and Means Committee, aware that President Clinton has said, on several occasions, that he will veto the bill in the event that it is approved. In other words, the whole group, the most progressive and liberal of the Cuban community in Miami, is thinking just that. In other words, they do not believe this insane project, created by a series of anti-Cuban individuals who call themselves Cubans, will actually progress.

Daniel Ortega: U.S. Blockade 'Unacceptable'

FL1407024095 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandanista National Liberation Front, described the anti-Cuban Helms-Burton bill that seeks to recrudesce the U.S. blockade against Cuba as unacceptable. The former Nicaraguan president stated that the intentions of U.S. sectors to strengthen the blockade oppose positions defended by governments all over the world. Ortega statements stem from approval of the Helms-Burton bill by the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Robaina Comments on 'Meaning' of Elections to Cuban People

FL1407023395 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Remarks by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina during a news conference held in Havana on the morning of 13 July; from the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Passage omitted containing previously filed material] [Begin Robaina recording] Regardless of what may be said, regardless of whom it pleases or displeases, the results of last Sunday's elections have meaning for the Cuban people. In spite of the difficulties and in spite of the special period, in spite of the siren songs, the majority of people have voted for Cuba's system, its government, its democracy, its revolution, and its socialism. [end recording]

Later in the news conference, referring to those who have tried to take advantage of the results to challenge the Cuban electoral system, Robaina invited the use of the same formula they apply to Cuba in their analyses of other political models that are presented as democratic.

[Begin Robaina recording] There was 2.8 percent absenteeism in the voting. Approximately 7 percent of the ballots were annulled and 4.3 percent were left blank. Let us assume that this 13 percent represents the so-called Cuban-government opposition. This would mean that the delegates elected on 9 July will govern during the next two and a half years with the support of 87 percent of the voters.

I have right here the results of the last elections from some important countries in the world, those that have already won their certificate as a democratic model, a certificate that we, by the way, neither want nor aspire to. In none of these — I repeat — none of these countries do their leaders —from the municipal to the presidential level — have the support of even 50 percent of the voters. [end recording]

Electoral Commission President Views Election Results

FL1307021095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 11 July carry a recording of a 64-minute news conference by National Electoral Commission President Carlos Amat Fores with correspondents at National Electoral Commission headquarters on 10 July.

The news conference includes Amat's comments on the preliminary results of the 9 July municipal elections.

Video coverage of the news conference begins with a wide angle shot of five men seated at a long table facing the camera. The unidentified moderator welcomes "press colleagues" to the news conference by "National Electoral Commission President Dr. Carlos Amat Fornet; Amat interjects "Fores," and the moderator corrects himself and adds that Amat is also the justice minister. Fores is seated at the center of the table. The moderator identifies the other men seated at the table as: National Electoral Commission Secretary Miguel Aguilar Onoz and (Manuel Bahamonde Pinero) and Raudilio Martin Sanchez, both National Electoral Commission members. The moderator explains to the reporters, seated in rows of chairs facing the panel, that after Amat concludes

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his opening statement, they should step up to the microphone placed between the table and the reporters, identify themselves, and pose their questions. He then turns over the floor to Amat.

Amat greets the reporters and says "we are very pleased to be here to offer you the first official information on the results of the election," noting that the elections are not over and a second round will be held on 16 July in districts where candidates did not receive a majority of the votes. Amat says that voting concluded less than 24 hours ago and indicates that work is ongoing at all polling stations to supply accurate and more detailed information on the election returns. He notes: "The impatience, curiosity, and requirements of the press make it necessary to announce results without having had the necessary time to compile all the information and details that you may need." Amat stresses that these are preliminary results compiled less than 24 hours after the election, that work on results is ongoing, and that results from the second round will be incorporated into the first round results to arrive at the final election results. He reminds reporters that he is holding this news conference after having worked through the night and all that day and asks his audience's indulgence for any lack of communication skills his weariness might cause.

Amat recalls that, according to Cuban electoral laws, the election process began in March with the candidate nomination assemblies. He explains: "Cuban law contemplates two types of elections. Partial elections are held every 2.5 years to elect delegates to the municipal assemblies of the People's Government. The broader general assemblies preceded elections of delegates not only to municipal assemblies but also to provincial assemblies of the People's Government and to the National Assembly of the People's Government. In this case, we are holding partial elections, since 2.5 years ago general elections were held, and therefore we are now electing delegates to the municipal assemblies." Amat highlights the enthusiastic way in which the process has been carried out over the last several months, pointing out: "Those who understand our electoral system know perfectly well that it requires a very high level of popular participation. Since political parties do not exist in our election, it is the people themselves who propose the candidates for delegates to the municipal assemblies at neighborhood assemblies in their district and vote for them in elections like the one held yesterday where one delegate was elected for each district." Amat commends the domestic media for it's ample coverage of the elections and acknowledges the foreign press' opportunity to follow the elections.

Amat stresses the high level of popular participation in the election process, noting "massive and enthusiastic participation of the people in the candidate nomination assemblies as well as the election." Amat says there are 14,229 electoral districts, each with one elected delegate, in Cuba. He adds that some 6.2 million participated in the 25,789 candidate nomination assemblies, with an average attendance of 82.9 percent. Amat then indicates that his preceding statements were given as an introduction to inform "those who perhaps did not have all the information, as we know there are some journalists here who are not in Cuba permanently."

Amat then offers some "concrete election results." He states that 7,568,548 of the 7,795,623 registered voters exercised their right to vote on 9 July. He adds: "A total of 97.1 percent of the voters participated in the election. In making the obligatory comparison with results of the 1992 election — the last election held for the delegates who currently hold the posts — we see that there was a high level of participation in 1992 in the electoral process — 97.2 percent. That is to say that there is a minimal difference of 0.1 percent between participation levels in the 1992 and yesterday's elections." Amat indicates that 13,903 or 97.7 percent of the 14,229 delegates were elected in the first round and that 326 districts will hold a second round, where no candidate received 51 percent of the votes. Amat notes that Cuban law stipulates two candidates are required in each district, adding that no election was held in the one district in which there was only one candidate. Amat goes on to stress the extremely high level of participation in "each and every province," noting that the 97.1 percent participation does not represent low participation in one province offset by high participation in another. He announces the following participation percentages by province: Camaguey 96.4; Havana 94.8; Matanzas 98.0; Ciego de Avila 98.9; Havana City 95.0; Pinar de Rio 97.9; Cienfuegos 98.9; Holguin 97.7; Sancti Spiritus 98.8; Granma 98.4; Isle of Youth 98.0; Santiago de Cuba 97.3; Guantanamo 97.8; Las Tunas 98.8; and Villa Clara 97.4 percent.

Amat states that they are not surprised by the figures due to the high level of participation in the preceding candidate nomination/progress report assemblies, noting the lowest participation percentage in the assemblies was 95 percent. Amat points out that voting is not obligatory in Cuba and that "citizens can decide to vote or not to vote" which demonstrates that "the population feels the need to express their will at the polls and elect their delegates." Amat points out that candidates are chosen by the people on the basis of their ability to carry out their function as a delegate and the municipal delegates as a group form a "source of candidates for provincial and national assemblies." Noting the importance of the candidates' election propaganda,

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Amat accentuates the use of "propaganda" instead of "promotion" to avoid the "carnival atmosphere that existed in Cuba at one time." Amat indicates that the current elections "will also determine an important qualitative change in the composition of the municipal assemblies of our People's Government."

Amat then states: "The number of blank ballots nationwide — they are classified blank because they do not express a preference for any of the candidates — totaled 4.3 percent, compared with 3.6 percent in 1992. I repeat, in yesterday's elections, 4.3 percent of the ballots were blank. That is to say that there was a 0.7 percent increase in blank ballots, not even a 1 percent difference. Null ballots, which are ballots that are void because they violate voting rules, this time equaled seven percent of those cast. Comparing them with 1992, we see that the percentage of null votes has remained exactly the same." Amat says that these figures support the notion that there was a problem with the design of the ballot in 1992, causing unintentional nullifications. He adds that the ballot had been modified for the second round of the last general election. Amat then states: "We see how the stable proportion of null ballots could undoubtedly signify certain disappointment by certain people who thought they would see many null or blank ballots." He points out that the difference between the total number of blank and null ballots in 1992 (10.6 percent) and the current election (11.3 percent) is very small.

Amat praises the quality of the candidates and reiterates that all data has not yet been compiled. He goes on to report that of the total 13,903 delegates elected, 2,144 were women and 2,139 were under age 30. Amat adds that 6,704 or 48.2 percent of the delegates were re-elected and notes that more details on the labor composition of the delegates is forthcoming, including details on how many self- employed delegates were elected.

Amat recalls that the polling stations remained open one hour later in Havana City and Matanzas due to heavy rains, which caused further delays in processing results, stressing again the preliminary nature of current information and the importance of accuracy.

Amat then announces results specific to Havana City: "A total of 95 percent of the 1,587,088 registered voters, or 1,507,800, elected 1,380 of the 1,514 delegates, or 91.1 percent." Amat adds that 134 districts in Havana City — more than any other province — will hold a second round of elections.

Amat indicates that 43 districts in Holguin, 61 in Santiago de Cuba, and 32 in Guantanamo will hold a second round of elections; the numbers of second round districts in other provinces run between 1, 5, 10, and 13; none will be held in the Isle of Youth, as all 112 delegates were elected.

Amat states that they will keep the people and the press informed of further details. He adds that 29,000 candidates were nominated for the 14,229 delegates posts, noting that 28,474 were nominated in 1992. Amat then says that he is ready for questions.

The news conference moderator opens the floor to questions. (Mauricio Vice), from EL PAIS, requests the numbers of null and blank ballots in Havana City; Amat's evaluation of them as the justice minister — asking if they were "a vote to express dissension with the government elections"; and Amat's evaluation of the elections, in general.

Amat replies that many factors effected the null ballots, explaining that confusion over voting procedures despite extensive efforts to educate the people, was one such factor. He acknowledges that the previous election campaign, in which two delegates were elected, caused a certain measure of confusion as some voters did not realize they had to select only one candidate. Amat adds: "This is one factor affecting the hundreds of null votes. The exact number is as yet undetermined." Amat goes on to admit that "we cannot avoid the possibility that some people did this intentionally, knowing that voting for two candidates would annul their vote." He adds: "Actually, we do not think that there was political intention behind all the null votes." Amat goes on to say that the same applies to blank ballots because "the voter may not have wanted to vote for any of the candidates on the ballot," noting that there had been opposition to the nomination of some candidates in the nomination assemblies, emphasizing the open debate carried out in the assemblies.

Amat reiterates that to attribute all the blank and null ballots to "a political intention to criticize the Revolution, the electoral system, or the way in which we develop our democracy is not totally objective." He adds: "I repeat that I do not dismiss the possibility that some people choose this method to express some resentment, some disagreement." He goes on to indicate that some people filled out the ballot correctly but annul their vote by adding a word "such as water or electricity" and acknowledges the current economic situation and shortages of the special period "due to the blockade of Cuba." Amat suggests that these people are under a lot of pressure and chose this as a way to relieve the pressure.

Amat states that the pressures of the special period have increased dramatically since the last election and a "negative political will" in the current election "may also

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be the hope of certain elements who are not sympathetic to the Revolution." Amat again stresses the high level of participation in Havana City had not dropped since the previous election, in spite of all the problems of the last 2.5 years of the special period "including the events that occurred in August 1994, the blackouts, transportation problems." Amat goes on to praise the Cuban people's courage in facing these problems and states that the election results "demonstrate once again our people's decision to support their system, their Revolution, and the accomplishments the Revolution has given them." He adds: "Not as president of the electoral commission or justice minister but as a citizen, I consider the election results exceedingly positive." Amat says the numbers speak for themselves.

In response to further inquiry from the reporter, Amat indicates that of the 1,507,800 votes cast in Havana City, 72,702 ballots — 4.8 percent — were blank and 175,713 — 11.7 percent — were annulled. Amat adds that in the 1992 elections, 20 percent of the ballots were blank and null and in the current election 16.5 percent, noting a 3.5 percent decrease.

Reporter Rolando Gonzalez, from Radio Ciudad de Havana, then steps up to the microphone and asks if any violations of election ethics had occurred and if they were related to the need for a second round in certain districts.

Amat replies affirmatively, citing a case in "one of the eastern provinces'" polling stations where preparations were incomplete and where there were complaints that people from outside the district were voting. Amat indicates that the provincial electoral commission investigated the matter immediately and affirmed the complaints were correct and the votes from this polling station were annulled. He adds: "The authorities instituted the proper legal measures for violating electoral ethics. The National Electoral Commission has insisted during every phase that there is no excuse for electoral ethics violations in Cuba." He adds that where violations occur, votes will be annulled and corrections will be made. Amat emphasizes that the elections were "completely harmonious," adding that no disturbances occurred due to good planning and organization. He describes the elections as "exemplary." He notes that "children, not the police, the army, or other authorities watch over the ballot boxes in Cuba." He states that Cuban electoral law strongly supports compliance with the electoral code of ethics and that violators will be prosecuted. Amat states that it is illegal for a candidate's family member to work at the district polling station, explaining that there is a series of rules governing electoral ethics that is strictly observed, and they respond to citizen complaints. Amat points out that approximately 1 million citizens worked on the elections in various tasks, just like in the previous election, displaying unity among Cubans.

A PRENSA LATINA reporter then recalls that Amat indicated that some of the candidates are self-employed workers. He asks if an individual is barred from leadership positions in the People's Government because he is self-employed. Amat responds that they have the right, as citizens, to be nominated. The reporter rephrases his question to ask if a self-employed delegate could become a People's Council or municipal government president. Amat responds that the issue would have to be studied as the possibility had not been considered.

Reporter Jay Marvin, from WLS Radio in Chicago, asks in English what message the voter turnout sends to the U.S. exile community in regard to the Helms-Burton bill. Amat waits for a translation, asks if the reporter understands Spanish or if the translator will translate his answer, and then responds: "The message is not one that I send. It is a message the people of Cuba send. The message implies that with our presence we are supporting our right to decide our problems and destiny in our country, for ourselves, without foreign intervention or pressures from anyone. We can develop our political and social activities in our country. By this election, I believe it is obvious that the Cuban people demonstrate their decision to defend their political system." Amat goes on to say: "If the people you mentioned analyze — and I don't know if they are capable of very deep study — the results and significance of this electoral process in the midst of the deprivations of the special period, they will have to conclude that the will of our people is unbreakable and also that our people use their vote to reaffirm their principle of sovereignty and the defense of their own liberty. I hope this message is received, but sometimes receptors are so full of static that many messages are not received. But, if you can include it in your journalism, we could spread the message of our people not only to the people of the United States, who we respect and view with friendship, but also to anyone in the world that thinks a Cuban can be forced to abandon his course by impositions and violent acts that violate all rules and principles of international law and the respect one nation owes to another to develop themselves in good fellowship, cooperation, and peace."

The interpreter then says he will translate Amat's response as best he can. Amat says: "Thank you."

At 0304 GMT, coverage of the news conference ends.

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U.S. Decision To Establish 'Full' Relations With SRV Viewed

'Better Late Than Never'

PA1307013995 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0118 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Article by Roberto Gili: "Better Late Than Never"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hanoi — President William Clinton's announcement of the decision to establish full relations with Vietnam has reached this capital while the city sleeps.

Hanoi's silent nights, as opposed to its bustling days, are one of the attractions that compel and draw residents from other nations to the capital of this Indo-Chinese state. A voice carries a long way; the world is still.

Thermometers again registered high temperatures today, even in the evening, when they registered higher than 30 degrees Celsius.

Watching these devices has become a rage in Hanoi, given the people's acute desire to see the mercury drop.

Poised in their commonplace squatting position, men and women constantly fan themselves while tending to their business, usually in front of their modest homes.

Of course, a high percentage of the people knew what would happen today. They knew about an imminent announcement from the White House. In fact many, through their proverbial oriental wisdom, considered the President's announcement to be more of an old prophecy coming to pass than a revelation.

Indeed, after two years of trade, bilateral exchange has exceeded $150 million and the flow of U.S. investment capital has amounted to $500 million. In a sense, one cannot say relations are being restored only starting today.

The information now circling the globe would have been considered impossible, or at least a very remote possibility, 20 years ago, given the deep trauma the defeat in Indo-China caused to the U.S. psyche.

More than 700,000 U.S. war veterans were afflicted by pyschological problems for many years, according to statistics from U.S. military authorities in Washington. The war changed thousands of people in the United States. The war changed millions of people in the United States. They became different people.

Neither the wailing of sirens, like the air raids of the past, nor the traditional fireworks heralded the "news" in Hanoi on 11 July.

The news that will be rendered as front-page headlines in leading papers tomorrow is already known here, like in small towns.

Recent reports from Washington [incomplete sentence as received]

Possible U.S.-SRV 'Friction' Areas Considered

FL1207234995 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1954 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the announcement that the United States and the SRV have normalized relations, there seems to be several areas that could cause political and trade friction between the two countries and affect the newly established relations. AFP lists the main sticking points as human rights and democracy, in addition to other initial trade issues that President Clinton insists must be discussed. Meanwhile, Russia and the Philippines praised both countries on their decision and expressed hope for, among other things, further details on the whereabouts of soldiers missing in action. U.S. business circles welcomed the news, since it will offer greater security to investors and will help businesses grow through bank credits, concessions, and other financial measures.

Similarity in Relations With U.S. Pondered

PA1407020095 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jul 95

["Station commentary" by Norberto Hernandez Valdes from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] There could be no news more pleasant for the Cuban people than word of the happiness, welfare, peace, and progress of the Vietnamese people.

Cuba and Vietnam, both socialist states led by communist parties, are brother peoples and countries with a common history and objectives. The Vietnamese people's victory over the U.S. aggression, which occurred 20 years ago with the takeover of Saigon by Ho Chi Minh's army, was a great victory that was also felt by all Cubans.

Both peoples and states have been strongly united by reciprocal actions of solidarity that have sealed a brotherhood that should last for centuries. This is without doubt good news for humanity.

President Clinton has the moral authority to adopt this decision, because it is well-known to everyone that he opposed his country's aggression against the Vietnamese people, which was openly noted by his political foes in the presidential elections he won in his

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country. Even if this were not the case, however, it is a legitimate right to rectify mistakes.

Vietnam, like Cuba, a socialist country led by a communist party, needs to normalize its international relations and direct its productive forces to benefit its people. The only difference between Vietnam and Cuba is the distance that separates each nation from U.S. territory.

Cuba and the United States are not separated by a huge debt of blood such as that of Washington with the Vietnamese people. There is, however, a huge debt of unfair political domination which has inflicted serious economic, social, and political injury on the Cuban people.

In fact, the United States has interfered in the national independence and sovereignty of Cuba, and for more than half a century it maintained a neocolonialist relationship which hurt the country's social development and the free determination of the Cuban people.

That was one of the main causes, if not the principal cause, of the Cuban revolution in the period between 1953 and 1959. There were no direct military clashes between the two countries, massive bombings against defenseless civilians, the use of chemical weapons, or massacres such as My Lai and other places. There was no direct military aggression by the U.S. Armed Forces. There were not 3.5 million casualties, and who knows how many maimings, as the Vietnamese people sustained.

How can Washington explain this difference between these relations and ours? How can it restore and maintain relations with Vietnam, the PRC, and the DPRK and not with Cuba, a small neighboring country that represents no threat to the United States?

The truth is that following international opposition to the blockade against Cuba, and after being left totally alone in this completely unfair policy, it must be very difficult for the U.S. Government to respond to these questions without cynicism and hypocrisy. The answers to these questions are very easy if you really want to be honest and are not afraid of the truth.

Radio Havana Views Economic Recovery, 1995 Outlook

PA1307005195 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Report by Marianela Samper from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a number of meetings held so far this year, we have heard that the country's economic performance is already showing results because of the transformations the Cuban state has implemented. If we take note of the fact that the steep decline our economy was experiencing since late 1990 came to a halt last year, this turning point indicates that we are adjusting to a limited level of imports and are entering a gradual recovery within this context.

Today, the talk is of recovery and growth in areas such as tourism, which yielded $800 million in gross earnings last year. Oil extraction rose 15 percent. Still, the level of unemployment has remained high. Perhaps overemployment was prompted by low efficiency compounded by the lack of raw materials in many areas. Also in 1994, consumption among the people registered relative growth because of the availability of items such as cigarettes, beverages, and agricultural and livestock products; the foreign exchange clearing house; and self-employment. In addition, the reactivation has been possible because of the foreign capital investment strategy. As of late May, joint ventures with investors from 63 countries totaled 212. Their value topped $2.1 billion, and these investments primarily were directed toward priority programs.

During a recently held meeting, the directors of enterprises that operate with [word indistinct] — a meeting summoned by the Council of Ministers — we saw a clear example of things that can be improved in the local economy with the (?participation) of foreign investors.

Confronting a lack of raw materials and obsolete technology amid the special period, the (Fichel) company, which produces cleaning products and cosmetics, began participating in ventures with foreign capital. It took advantage of market transactions involving free convertibility while offering competitive products. The results are noticeable — an increase in sales of nearly $32 million and estimated annual profits of $5 million for 1995. In addition, 2,000 workers now have jobs and enjoy [words indistinct] in this enterprise. Moreover, the capacity to domestically produce soap, toothpaste, and detergent is gradually recovering.

In terms of finance, another look at the Cuban economy shows a successful reduction in excess liquidity and an increase in fiscal revenues via the tax system. In terms of subsidies, the government succeeded in reducing them 37 percent from 1993 levels, although subsidies remained above government targets.

You might ask then: What is the outlook for this year? [Words indistinct] resolve the problem of the sugar industry, the country's main export industry, which over the past three seasons has experienced a 50 percent drop. Recovery will begin next season, but it will take at least two years to stabilize. Another major goal is the

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recovery of the peso's buying power, which will provide a means to stimulate production and increase efficiency.

Davalos Commentary: 'We Need Foreign Currency'

FL1407022795 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Commentary by Fernando Davalos: "We Need Foreign Currency," from the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The title addresses this issue very clearly: We need foreign currency. The nation requires it now more than ever, to strengthen the positive steps that are being taken by a large portion of the Cuban economy. We need it to buy fuel, elements we do not produce, medicines, and technological means for production. We need foreign currency because, as was said in the recent managerial meeting held in Havana, the nation faces a difficult external economic situation, mainly the result of three consecutive low-yielding sugarcane harvests. The role that this sector should play as the primary source of economic resources was highlighted. We are not going to reduce all the [word indistinct], but rather expand the practical initiatives that resulted from the meeting chaired by Fidel and the government, and diligently strive for better profits in those Cuban enterprises that operate with foreign currency. In this endeavor, the story is very simple: There will be profits if the costs are reduced through efficiency — it has no other name — in those places here in Cuba that produce for export or for domestic use. Increase efficiency, lower costs, increase production, save resources, better utilize them, take full advantage of scarce raw materials on hand, lower material consumption in factories without lowering quality or quantity, cut the excess work force, control expenses, and scrutinize every corner where efficiency and foreign currency could surreptitiously be escaping or wasted, whatever means that signify more foreign currency earnings. The collectives of these enterprises of the so- called emerging sector have the floor — tourism, industry, sugar, mining, fishing — all the enterprises that operate in foreign currency because the nation expects their efficiency, their patriotism, and their intelligence.

Castro Meets With State Council on Corruption Cases

PA1307150995 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro presided over a meeting of the State Council and the directors of enterprises that operate with foreign exchange to analyze corruption cases involving the sector in links to foreign capital and foreign trade.

In analyzing the issue, President Fidel Castro said the matter does not concern only the Interior Ministry. He added that a political approach and harsh measures must be taken because the problem could become a sort of cancer.

The Cuban chief of state said that after years of expanded relations with capitalists, social morals must be safeguarded and discipline and controls are required. He went on to list the hazards that the development of tourism on the island implies. We have to take measures, he said, and if transgressions become more acute, the measures to counteract them will also become more acute.

Brigadier General Armando Quinonez reported on several cases where officials who conducted operations in foreign exchange were bribed, diverted resources, and favored the foreign side in negotiations.

Administrative penalties were applied in all cases, the persons were separated from the foreign sector of the economy, and some of them are facing legal proceedings.

Castro, Lage Address Corruption in Foreign Exchange

PA1307234895 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1716 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 13 Jul (PL) — Today, President Fidel Castro and Vice President Carlos Lage attended a meeting with directors of Cuban enterprises operating with foreign exchange which resulted in an open call against corruption and a challenge towards efficiency.

In a three-page note that daily GRANMA published today, the president recalled how for more than three decades of trade exchange with the USSR, amounting to hundreds of millions of rubles, there was not a single case of bribery. He warned that now, after several years of broader relations with capitalists, we must preserve socialist morals.

We must prevent the idea that we could be bribed from spreading around. This is why we have to halt this phenomenon and eliminate the factors promoting it, Castro also warned.

He insisted that "it (corruption) is something we have to accept regardless of how painful it is to learn of cases in which people we thought were honorable are involved."

The chief of state called for greater discipline and control, because there are people handling foreign

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exchange who could be thinking about "favoritism and cronyism."

Further on he pointed out that confronting these phenomena cannot be the responsibility of the Interior Ministry (Minint) alone, but a political confrontation.

"We have to enhance behavior and requirements, and take harsher measures because it becomes a cancer," President Castro underscored.

He remarked this is not a new problem because there were cases of embezzlement at other times. However, the current cases "have a new characteristic, are more painful, and adversely affect the country's image. It is painful to see how girls become prostitutes; all this harms national dignity, honor."

Fidel Castro recognized that the Cuban directorate was aware of the risks being taken in the island with tourism and the recent economic opening, because in addition to vice, diseases, drugs, prostitution (previously eradicated from the country), it also elicits insecurity, because means of sabotage and terrorism could turn up via this path.

"Not only people who want to take a walk, have fun, and conduct business come here... Those who want to make terrorism also come here because all sorts of people come and go with complete freedom," he explained.

We are compelled to take measures and if these phenomena worsen, we must also toughen the measures, the Cuban president maintained.

Regarding the inspecting and auditing activity, the head of state pointed out its significance and how decisive it is to have a dignified job, with social prestige, a job needing serious people to organize, train well, and be given opportunities to perform it.

Meanwhile, Vice President Lage, who is in charge of the current economic changes, said "this is very serious, albeit isolated, because socialism is built on morals, whether or not there are joint ventures, investments, and foreign firms."

He explained that the phenomenon begins with convenience, changes in living habits, a separation from one's roots, and favoring friends.

"We must not forget that when we participate in a negotiation, we are representing the state's interests, and that we have to do this in an austere fashion," Lage affirmed.

Brigadier General Armando Quinones, a high-ranking Minint chief, presented several cases of corruption at the meeting. The cases were detected among officials linked to the sector that handles foreign exchange, especially after the opening up to foreign capital and decentralization of foreign trade.

Quinones maintained that embezzlement, money transfers, and cronyism in favor of foreigners during the negotiations were common in all cases, manifested by monetary commissions and material benefits (luxurious gifts, trips, and expenses paid abroad, among others) for those involved.

"Administrative sanctions definitely severing their ties with the foreign sector of the economy were applied in all cases, and some of them are about to be legally prosecuted," Gen. Quinones disclosed.

After President Castro exercised his constitutional right to vote in the municipal elections on 9 July, he told the local media that the meeting constituted a serious analysis in all aspects and in the search for efficiency, savings, and the fight against attempts of bribery and corruption and the habits certain cadres and people begin to make.

"There are many people trying to influence, bribe, and corrupt the cadres; in addition, the fact that we did not have much of an accounting tradition, or control. This meeting placed a lot of emphasis on that," the leader of the Cuban Revolution concluded.

Request To Deny Possible U.S. Visa for Castro Derided

FL1407122295 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Commentary by Fritz Suarez; from the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good afternoon. Here we are again with the midday newscast from the international press room [in background female voice heard sighing; "Oh my God!"]. I have been looking at and analyzing here with my comrades, an item from REUTERS — a British news agency — which broaches the possibility of Cuban President Fidel Castro participating the United Nations' 50th anniversary ceremonies and the repercussions this has had on certain Democratic and Republican Senators in the United States government.

The item reads as follows, I quote: U.S. legislators have expressed their fears that Cuban President Fidel Castro would try to travel to New York to participate in the United Nations' 50th anniversary. In view of that possibility, both Democrats and Republicans asked the State Department to deny Castro a visa, if he were to request one. They ask that Fidel Castro be denied a visa.

Here I stop to think about this item which, as I said before, is from REUTERS. Why so much fear about

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Fidel traveling to United Nations headquarters? Why are they so frightened? The item goes on to report that according to these same gentleman, the United States is the country with the most liberty in the world.

We do not need to [words indistinct] the list of the U.S. legislators who fear Fidel's visit to the United States. They are the same fierce enemies of Fidel [words indistinct]. On the other hand, the same people responsible for the blockade against Cuba speak in name of the Cuban people requesting that the State Department deny Fidel a visa.

I can imagine what you are thinking. The same thing I, our cameraman, and [words indistinct]. What Cuban people are they talking about? Is it the same people who turned out en masse to vote on Sunday? Is it the same people to whom they — with their macabre laws — deny medicines needed to save lives?

I would also like to point out something else regarding these new anti-Cuban restrictions. If Cuba is a member of the United Nations, and takes part in its own right, as well as being represented in the organization's forums, why does U.S. democracy — so boasted about — fear Fidel's presences? Could it be that they fear the next vote on the embargo will, once again, be overwhelmingly against the United States? I am sure that these people's fears go further. In any case, whether it be in the [word indistinct] of the United Nations or here in Cuba, they will have to hear the commander in chief, who is the president of Cuba. If not, I think they should cover their ears and stop to meditate. As Professor Calvino said; I believe and think that it would be worthwhile.

Colombian Vice President To Pay Official Visit 14-17 Jul

PA1107044295 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2147 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Report by Fausto Triana]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bogota, 10 Jul (PL) — Colombian Vice President Humberto De La Calle will make an official visit to Cuba, starting next Friday [14 July]. The visit is another step in the consolidation of the bilateral ties renewed on 20 October 1993.

Luis Hernando Parra, press director of the Colombian Vice Presidency, confirmed the report to PRENSA LATINA and commented that the high-level Colombian Government delegation will remain in Havana from 14 to 17 July.

The committee, which is to give priority to issues related to health and education, will give continuity to the rapprochement process started between both countries when they renewed their diplomatic ties approximately 10 months ago.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo visited Cuba in 1994. At the time he had just assumed his post in the new administration of President Ernesto Samper, who replaced the current OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria.

The economic and commercial ties between both countries, although at a modest level, increased significantly in the past months, especially in the spheres of science, biotechnology, higher education, sports, and culture.

In November 1994, there was a gathering of university directors in Cuba and this event prompted the exchange of university professors and students.

Haiti

Additional Election Results: Lavalas Winning

95CA9146 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [lead headline] A Lavalas flash flood over Haiti! The political organization close to President Aristide will have a majority in and control the parliament, as well as the nation's communal administrations. After an actor [comedien—outgoing mayor Evans Paul was said to be a journalist], now a singer will be heading the nation's number one commune: Manno Charlemagne succeeds K-Plim [nickname of Evans Paul]. [passage omitted: headlines and advertisements]

The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] continues to publish the results of the 25 June 1995 elections, results that show once again that the parliament will be controlled by a Lavalas Political Organization [OPL] majority, as will the nation's communal administrations. Indeed, yesterday evening the CEP published the list of people who have won the nation's city halls. According to the results published by the CEP, the Lavalas political platform won, by a very wide margin, the muncipal elections held last 25 June, its mayoral candidates having been elected in the nation's nine principal towns, among them Port-au-Prince.

In Port-au-Prince, outgoing FNCD [National Front for Change and Democracy] Mayor Evans Paul was left far behind by Manno Charlemagne, who is close to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Manno Charlemagne got 55,107 votes, 45 percent of the votes cast — against a little over 21,000, 18 percent, for Evans Paul.

In addition to Port-au-Prince, the chief towns of the eight other departments — which are also the nation's

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principal towns — were all won by the Lavalas political coalition candidates.

A quick look at the figures — here is the situation, according to the results published by the CEP for the communal administrations:

In the Department of the North, Lavalas has won 10 communal administrations; the FNCD, two; Conacom [National Congress of Democratic Movements], one.

In the Department of the Center: Lavalas, eight; FNCD, three; independents, one.

In the [Department of the] Artibonite: Lavalas, eight; FNCD, one; PROP [expansion unknown: Creole acromyn for "clean"] one.

In the [Department of the] Southeast — we are still talking about the communal administrations, of course — Lavalas organizes a veritable tidal wave, a score [preceding word in English] of eight out of eight.

In the [Department of the] Northwest: Lavalas, seven; PROP, one.

In the Department of the South, 14 city halls are controlled by the OPL; Serge Gilles' party, Panpra [Nationalist Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] wins one; and the FNCD wins one.

In the Department of the West, Lavalas — the OPL — will control nine communes; the FNCD, two; the independents, three; and Rockefeller Guerre's UPD [Union of Democratic Patriots], one.

It is to be noted that Mr. [Luc Augustin] has been elected mayor of the city of Cap-Haitien; and that in Jacmel, Mr. (Babette Yvon) has been elected mayor. All are from the Lavalas family.

The Delmas [section of greater Port-au-Prince] the communal administration will henceforth be occupied by former deputy (Patrick Norveus) of the OPL. (Norveus) won by a wide margin.

I remind listeners that at the parliamentary level, as regards the Chamber of Deputies, the OPL at present practically controls the parliament, with 16 deputies elected out of the 16 races the returns of which the CEP has published — and also five senators elected, out of the five returns published by the CEP. A new senator from the OPL coalition has been elected, bringing to five the number of pro-Aristide people in the Senate of the Republic. According to the results published yesterday, (Wesner Emmanuel) is the winner in the Department of the West, with 64 percent of the votes. Nine other OPL coalition candidates running for senator are showing favorable vote counts, for 18 seats to fill — while the results involving four [Senate] seats for two departments, the Department of the North and the Department of Grand'Anse, are still unknown.

'Nonstop Reaction' to Election Results Noted

95CA9147 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1130 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been nonstop reaction since shortly after the publication of the list of candidates who won the elections. The great majority of the Haitian political class has received the results of these elections with great apprehension [ke sere]. Louis Dejoie, leader of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, says the election results gave him quite a jolt. He feels this is not good for democracy, because only one party is going to have a voice in the legislature.

[Begin Dejoie recording] And when I heard the results this morning [words indistinct] it's a shock [preceding word in English]. And I myself see that it is worse than under Duvalier — because when Duvalier used to hold elections, at least he had the decency to do something that everyone was, you know, able to accept. [sentence as heard] Here, however, this means that all the political parties in general...[pauses] protested the way the elections were held, because what has happened is that they have stolen the elections from us. Also, everyone contested the elections. They say they won't accept the elections. [passage omitted] The parliament is now going to pass anything the executive asks them to — to the detriment of the Haitian people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

For its part, the Modelh-PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti-Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti] says that the results of the June elections are going to spoil the climate of national reconciliation that the Haitian chief of state never ceases to talk about. Francois Latortue asks the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] and the nation's political parties to get hold of themselves.

[Begin Latortue recording, in French] No one was expecting things to be done the way they have been done. Thus, it came as a big surprise and there was indignation, dissatisfaction, frustration, which does not [word indistinct] a good forerunner for the climate of peace that is indispensable for development. Thus, Modelh was really surprised by the results — even its bravest, who went to elections. Most...[rephrases] almost all...[rephrases] we still don't have all the results, but the principal ones indicate we have lost miserably — at least according to the results that have been published.

So, Modelh regrets, really, that things were done that way. I foresee frustrations, dissatisfaction that are going to perhaps prevent, or hinder, or slow down the

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advent of what we thought we would obtain following the elections: reconciliation, peace, and understanding [l'entente].

There is really a serious problem. Obviously, Model is still willing to contribute to peace. However, the circumstances that are going to unfold do not favor a climate of peace in Haiti. [end recording]

Mrs. (Camille Sylaire), candidate for deputy for the first district of Port-au-Prince running on the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats ticket] says the results of the elections have consecrated the funeral of democracy in Haiti. She asks Mrs. Chancy-Manigat to state her position, as the only woman presently on the CEP. Mrs. (Sylaire) asks other candidates not to participate in the second round of elections.

[Begin (Sylaire) recording, in French] [passage omitted] If you agree to go to the second round of elections, you will be legitimizing the CEP and the appointments of the first round. You will lose anyway in the second round — and this time with zero recourse. [end recording]

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Chile

Foreign Minister Evaluates Visit of U.S. Delegation

PY1207182095 Santiago LA EPOCA in Spanish 12 Jul 95 p 11

[Report by Cristina Arevalo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following an in-depth review of the bilateral agenda for Chile and the United States at the second meeting of the political consultative group on 10 July, Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza stated that Chile's possible entry into the NAFTA is being "blown out of proportion" to the point of portraying it as the only bilateral issue. Insulza feels that this approach awakens "inordinate expectations" about Chile's membership in the NAFTA. He added that the members of the U.S. delegation that visited Chile recently endorsed this impression. Insulza said: "The Chileans' way of life will not change significantly because of the NAFTA, so giving it too much importance, as we do, is a mistake."

The Chilean foreign minister criticized the so-called "NAFTAlization" [preeminence of the NAFTA issue at the expense of other bilateral concerns in Chilean-U.S. relations] of Chile's relations with the United States, adding that, above and beyond on-going negotiations, ties with the country to the north are very important because it is Chile's main trading partner.

The visit of the U.S. delegation to Santiago shored up the bilateral political consultative mechanism that President Bill Clinton and Chilean President Eduardo Frei agreed upon in 1994 when the latter visited Washington. It is expected that this group will meet again in September or October this year in Washington.

Insulza's evaluation of the consultative group's discussions was positive. He also said that at least during the meetings that he attended, nobody raised the need to include environmental and labor clauses in the NAFTA negotiations. He emphasized that it is up to Washington, and not Santiago, to decide what kind of fast track [preceding two words in English] treatment it wants to propose to the U.S. Congress.

The Chilean foreign minister recalled that when creation of the NAFTA was being discussed, Canada and Mexico were accorded the clear fast track [preceding three words in English] treatment (which did not include environmental and labor clauses), although later the two countries signed parallel labor and environmental agreements.

Insulza said that Chile conveyed to the United States its concern about commercial unfairness regarding tobacco export quotas. He explained that there is an agreement which sets a ceiling on tobacco exports to the United States, although certain U.S. senators have objected to this agreement in Congress. Insulza said that he is hopeful that this matter will be resolved soon.

Speaking about the disagreements with President Clinton's administration over policy toward Cuba, Insulza stressed that all the countries want to help Cuba become democratic, and to bring it back into the fold of the OAS.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said on 10 July that the White House hopes Santiago and Washington will finally see eye-to-eye as far as policy toward Havana is concerned.

Insulza explained that Talbott meant that he hopes the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba at the ambassadorial level, announced by Chile on 7 April, "will help promote democracy and opening in Cuba."

Insulza confirmed that the attitude of Washington's envoys toward the Letelier case was just as had been reported earlier. In other words, they praised Chile's democratic process and the way the trial was handled, and they conveyed Washington's confidence that the sentence will be fully implemented. The two teams also discussed pending UN Security Council issues in view of the fact that Chile will soon be joining this forum.

Gen. Pinochet Warns Against Dangers of 'Revanchist Hatred'

PY1307034195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0043 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 12 Jul (EFE) — General Augusto Pinochet, former Chilean military ruler and the current commander in chief of the Army, today warned against the regression that goes hand in hand with revanchist hatred, referring to those who are demanding justice in the pending human rights cases.

During a luncheon given by former aides and officials from his regime (1973-1990) in Vina del Mar, Pinochet said that "great nations only look toward the future, and are not stopped by hatred, rancor, or revanchist hopes. These only stop nations and cause them to regress."

Although he did not mention them, Gen. Pinochet's words were understood to be addressed to the parties of the left and to human rights organizations, which have asked for justice in pending cases of human rights violations that took place during the past military regime.

Opposition parties of the right, backed by the military, have suggested the need to issue a new "amnesty law" to end all the trials that have been initiated for human

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rights violations and that were not included in the Amnesty Law of 1978.

Debate over this matter has resumed after the sentences issued on 30 May by the Supreme Court against retired General Manuel Contreras, former chief of the Chilean secret police, and his direct aide Brigadier Pedro Espinoza.

Contreras was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and Espinoza to six years for having been the "instigators" of the murders of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his U.S. assistant Ronni Moffit in Washington in 1976.

Pinochet recalled that the threat to the Republic made it impossible to avoid a military coup on 11 September 1973. He also spoke about the phenomenon of hatred, which is unable, because of its ideological origins, to acknowledge its sole responsibility for the violence it generates.

"It is also unable to seek authentic reconciliation. All its energy is, therefore, aimed toward an unattainable vengeance, to the point of destroying if possible the object of its doctrine," Pinochet said.

He added that "we are with deep concern witnessing how this revanchist hatred is, in an increasingly more progressive, incisive, and overt manner, being nourished among us."

"If hatred were to prevail again in our coexistence, this essential nucleus of our common life as Chileans would again be jeopardized by evil situations," Pinochet concluded.

Government Rejects Pinochet's Remarks

PY1407025695 Santiago Universidad Catolica Television Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has refuted the comments made yesterday by General Augusto Pinochet, and said it is not true that revanchist attitudes regarding the problem of human rights are being promoted in Chile.

During today's cabinet meeting, which lasted three hours, various subjects were discussed. The government authorities talked about international relations and the European Union's interest in holding bilateral negotiations with Chile, as was disclosed by Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza after his visit to several European countries. The sound performance of the country's economy during the first half of the year, as well as the comments by Gen. Pinochet, who yesterday said he could sense a climate of revanchist hatred regarding the human rights problems in the country, were also discussed.

[Begin Jose Joaquin Brunner, minister secretary general of government, recording] We fully disagree with any opinion or assessment that a climate of revanche or hatred prevails or is being promoted in Chile, or that there are sectors interested in promoting revengeful attitudes regarding the past. We therefore believe it is wrong to say that revanchist attitudes are being promoted here. The government, in fact, not only does not promote but would reject these attitudes should they appear, although they have not done so. It is also wrong to mistake the desire for justice, the search for a reconciliation in truth and justice, with revanche, because they are simply two completely different things. [end recording]

Parties Accused of Creating 'Artificial Debate' on Rights

PY1307154295 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government accused the right-wing parties of creating an artificial debate on the human rights issue without offering concrete solutions. Yesterday, in the Cerro Castillo presidential residence, President Frei met separately with the different blocs of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [PPD].

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] President Frei summoned to the Cerro Castillo residence the members of the political committee and ministers of the social area. They explained to the deputies and senators of the PPD the government objective to retake the original legislative agenda for 1995. To do this, it is necessary to overcome what was labeled an artificial debate on the human rights issue. In this regard, the government reiterated its desire that the courts investigate the pending cases on human rights violations during the military regime.

[Minister Secretary General of Government Jose Joaquin Brunner] The right-wing parties in general have permanently staggered between silence or producing this type of artificial debate which is only seeking impunity and the idea of forgetting about the pending cases. This contradicts the government position of moving gradually but constantly toward national reconciliation.

[Reporter] The government strategy received the full support of the PPD congressmen.

[Senator Sergio Bitar] The opposition was never concerned about resolving the human rights issue. It seems to us unusual that all kinds of initiatives on the human

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rights issue are emerging when nothing was done during the 17 years of the military government, from 1973 to 1990, nor in the last four or five years. Therefore, we don't believe they have any strength or moral authority, or the will to solve the problems involving human rights issue.

[Deputy Camilo Escalona] Conditions have not yet matured in Chilean society to make progress toward a solution, a real solution, on this issue. Efforts are being made not to find a solution; to forget; to leave everything, with impunity, and this is certainly absolutely unacceptable from the ethical viewpoint, which is the basis of the government and the PPD.

[Deputy Renan Fuentealba] There will be no law interpreting the Amnesty Law because we believe that a government branch like the judicial branch, which is sovereign, autonomous, and independendent, has the necessary means to interpret the Amnesty law. It did so in the past, it is doing so now, and I don't see why it cannot do so in the future. [end recording]

Cuban Ambassador Comments on New Role, Objectives

PY1307191995 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 13 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] We took newly appointed Cuban Ambassador Aramis Fuentes by surprise. He is recovering from a cold, and is still suffering from congestion. Even though he resisted our interview request at first, he gradually accepted, and answered our questions on the role he will play in our country, on the resistance expressed by some sectors, and other issues.

[LA TERCERA] You are an economist and businessman. What were your specific duties in Cuba?

[Fuentes] I was vice president of the Gran Caribe Hotel group, which has great influence on the island and has a network of hotels, all of them of the five- and four-star level with more than 6,300 rooms. The group has under its jurisdiction the famous Cabaret Tropicana of Habana and also the well-known restaurant Floridita.

[LA TERCERA] Your role in Chile coincides with the resumption of diplomatic relations, which were interrupted for 21 years. What will be the emphasis of your administration?

[Fuentes] I come with great enthusiasm and interest to promote the relations between Chile and Cuba, to strengthen our links in all fields without forgetting any of them — for example, in the fields of economy, trade, culture, and sports. I come with a great desire to work.

[LA TERCERA] Will you meet your Chilean counterpart Patricio Pozo, who is now in Santiago?

[Fuentes] Of course, if it is possible. Why not? We met in Havana, and established very clear relations. I would like to see him here.

[LA TERCERA] Is President Fidel Castro coming to Chile?

[Fuentes] I was asked about this, but I have no information. I was a bit surprised, upon arriving in Santiago, to find there was great interest in his visit.

[LA TERCERA] But it is assumed that he will eventually come.

[Fuentes] I hope it happens. That would be great news for me as ambassador.

[LA TERCERA] The appointment of Patricio Pozo as ambassador in Havana was very well received in Cuban circles. Are you not concerned that it was not the same with your appointment?

[Fuentes] Things like that happen. In Havana, Pozo's appointment was expected with great interest, and he received strong support from the beginning. I am not worried that it was not the same in my case. The future will tell what happens with regard to my work.

[LA TERCERA] When will you officially become ambassador?

[Fuentes] Next Monday, when I present my credentials to President Eduardo Frei. This Friday, I will hold a meeting in the Foreign Ministry, where I will deliver the copies of my credentials. My work starts from that time on.

[LA TERCERA] Is your entire family coming to Chile?

[Fuentes] My wife will come later. I have two children who are studying in Cuba, and they will have to decide whether to come.

Colombia

Samper Tells Clinton 'Kingpins' To Get Harsh Sentences

PA1207225595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1933 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Jul (EFE) — Colombian President Ernesto Samper today told his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton that Colombian justice will punish drug trafficking kingpins who have been captured or have surrendered by meting out maximum allowable sentences to be served in secure and spartan prisons.

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Samper said this in a letter sent to Clinton in which he thanked the U.S. President for a 6 July letter congratulating Colombia for recent actions against "Cali Cartel" drug traffickers. The Colombian president stressed that "only a clear international commitment will enable us to make definite advances toward the elimination of the drug problem."

Samper highlighted the "new and constructive phase" in relations between Colombia and the United States — two countries that had sharp differences earlier this year. He added that recent contacts are the response his country expects in exchange for the "dignified and sovereign struggle" it has waged so far and "will continue to carry out."

"This international commitment, in our case, calls for effective forms of judicial cooperation, information exchange, and efficient control of chemical products (for processing drugs)," Samper said.

The Colombian president underscored that the leaders of the "Cali Cartel" will be punished "with the utmost severity allowed by currently applicable Colombian laws and that the government is determined to ensure they serve their sentences in prisons that feature conditions of austerity and tight security."

Mentioning seizures made under the comprehensive counternarcotics program announced in Febuary, Samper also highlighted legislation approved by the Colombian Congress to fight the laundering of drug money.

"The Colombian Government believes that the letters we have exchanged over the past few days will mark the beginning of a new and constructive phase of understanding on this and other important issues in bilateral relations, such as commerce, investment, and hemispheric integration."

Of the seven alleged top leaders of the "Cali Cartel," two of the most important — Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela and Jose Santacruz Londono — were arrested on 9 June and 4 July, respectively. The other three — Henry Loaiza, Victor Patino, and Fanor Arizabaleta — were captured within the past month.

President Discusses Cabinet Changes With Party Leaders

PA1207234695 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Samper, as a prelude to ministerial changes, held meetings throughout the day today with the country's various political forces to establish which ministers will support his programs, as well as to determine whether they will remain in their posts.

The first political meeting President Samper held today was with the Liberal Party's national leadership. At this meeting, his party gave him its full support for the ongoing struggle against drug trafficking, his Social Leap program, his foreign policy, and his efforts in the peace process.

Nevertheless, on this last point the Liberal Party asked the president set a definite date for the guerrillas to reply on whether or not they agree to talks.

[Begin National Liberal Directorate member Piedad Cordoba recording, identified by caption] The Liberal Party believes the government should set definite dates regarding its generous peace proposals. We did not propose any specific dates, but we did speak to the president about the need to quickly establish a timeframe while this peace process moves ahead. [end recording]

The Liberal Party also asked President Samper to make changes in his cabinet before 23 July — the day of the party's national convention.

Right now, President Samper is meeting with the directors of the Conservative Party. The meeting with Conservative Party representatives is designed to determine whether they will continue to cooperate with the Samper administration, or whether they will withdraw their three cabinet members. Although some Conservative Party members appeared willing to support the current administration, when they entered Narino Presidential Palace they only would say they wanted to listen to the president's arguments, adding that tomorrow they will decide whether the party's cabinet members will stay or go.

The meeting, which has been the longest-lasting of those held today at the presidential palace, continues at this moment.

Samper's Cabinet Members Tender Resignation En Masse

PA1207223295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Jul (EFE) — The 15 ministers of Colombian President Ernesto Samper's cabinet tendered a letter of resignation en masse, leaving the chief of state free to reorganize his cabinet.

Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe read the resignation letter in which the ministers resign en masse, following a long council of ministers' meeting at the

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Presidency in Santa Fe de Bogota. The ministers note "the need of overcoming the political situation of the past few weeks."

Consequently, the letter states, all the cabinet members "decided to quit their cabinet posts with the objective of leaving the chief of state free to adopt whatever decisions and changes he (the president) considers necessary."

Samper's social plans, in the opinion of the outgoing ministers, "will be an effective instrument to solve the serious problems of abandonment and poverty suffered by millions of Colombians."

That same plan, known as the "Social Leap," according to the ministers, "can offer in the coming years more opportunities of jobs, education, health, and housing for all our fellow citizens, with the clear social strategy adopted in this administration."

It is expected that Samper will reshuffle his cabinet as soon as possible, after the consultations he has made with parties and political movements.

The letter of resignation en masse is signed by the 15 ministers, while the government minister signed in behalf of Defense Minister Fernando Botero, who is currently on a private visit to Europe.

The 15 ministers who tendered their resignation are:

Foreign Affairs: Rodrigo Pardo

Government: Horacio Serpa Uribe

Defense: Fernando Botero Zea

Justice: Nestor Humberto Martinez Neira

Finance: Guillermo Perry Rubio

Economic Development: Rodrigo Marin Bernal

Foreign Trade: Daniel Mazuera Gomez

Agriculture: Antonio Hernandez Gamarra

Communications: Armando Benedetti Jimeno

Transportation: Juan Gomez Martinez

Education: Arturo Saravia Better

Mines and Energy: Jorge Eduardo Cock Londono

Health: Alonso Gomez Duque

Labor and Social Security: Maria Sol Navia Velasco

Environment: Cecilia Lopez Montano

Serpa: Partisan Composition of Cabinet To Stay Unchanged

PA1307012595 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All of the cabinet members of President Ernesto Samper have made official their resignation. With this protocol decision, the president has a green light to make the changes he deems appropriate.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Orlando Guerrero] The ministers' decision to resign, which had been made earlier, was made official at approximately 1300, when they began their weekly meeting at the Narino Palace with the president. Headed by Government Minister Horacio Serpa, the 15 ministers signed the letter that was subsequently handed to President Samper. In this letter, they thank the president for having named them in his cabinet.

At the end it became clear for the government that the political apportionment of the ministries will remain unchanged, that is, 11 Liberals, three Conservatives, and one representative of the Alliance for Colombia movement.

[Serpa, in progress] ...and in order to handle some new developments in regional matters, to make an adjustment in the roster of ministers, something that in no way will throw off balance the participation that the political forces now have in the cabinet.

[Guerrero] We already know that the major changes will take place in the ministries related to the social area. Persons who exert great leadership on this matter and in political terms will be appointed. To conclude, and based on rumors circulating here in the presidential palace, the change will take place next week at the latest. [end recording]

Armies Work To Locate Kidnapped Venezuelan Mayor

PA1307203395 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Report by Mario Ramirez in Cucuta from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian and Venezuelan military officers met today in Cucuta to evaluate the public order situation on the border following the kidnapping, apparently by Colombian guerrillas, of the Venezuelan mayor of Guasgualito.

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Despite the kidnapping, relations between Colombia and Venezuela are excellent.

[Begin recording] [Major General Manuel Jose Bonnet, commander of the Army 2d Division of Santander] Once we know who carried out the kidnapping we will know why. Right now we do not know; therefore, to suggest a reason would be just a guess. It may be for money, they could be common criminals, or they could be guerrillas — who knows?

[Gen. Ruben Medina, commander of the 2d Division of the Venezuelan Army] This has not created tension among the population, either on the Venezuelan or the Colombian side, and much less between the two forces. What we are doing is working jointly to try to resolve the problem. [end recording]

The presidential Good Neighbor Commission is scheduled to meet this weekend.

Ecuador

Sources 'Surprised' Over Fujimori Remarks on Ambassador

PA1307193095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by German Carbajal from "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We report that political and diplomatic officials in Quito were surprised with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's assertions that his government would not appoint an ambassador to Ecuador because, in his opinion, there is a climate of hostility against Peru in our country.

According to experts, the Peruvian statement denotes ignorance of Ecuador's reality, because the situation is very different here and could be construed as an excuse, which should be rectified as soon as possible to support the detente both countries are trying to achieve.

The sources consulted stated that the action taken by both countries to gradually improve their bilateral relations would be strongly bolstered if Peru, once and for all, decides to send its ambassador — a decision that has been pending for several months.

Ecuador maintains an ambassador in Lima. However, Peru only had a charge d'affaires in Quito during the conflict, and he was replaced by a diplomat at the same level after the hostilities ended and peace was signed at Itamaraty.

A press report received today asserts that Fujimori believes that the decision to send a new ambassador to be accredited by the government in Quito, amid an alleged climate of hostility, would prompt an awkward situation that he wants to avoid because it would mar the situation between Ecuador and Peru.

in contrast to this and according to the same source, the Peruvian president has invited his Ecuadoran counterpart, Sixto Duran-Ballen, to attend the inaugural ceremony of his second period in government, which is to be held in Lima during the latter part of July. We were unable to find out immediately if the invitation has been accepted.

According to the same press reports, Peru says there is a climate of hostility in Ecuador, but does not give any example to back this assertion. What is evident, however, is that the Peruvian diplomats in our country go about their activities without any type of limitations.

A climate of manifest hostility does exist, but in Peru. This can be proven just by scanning the headlines of Peruvian newspapers. They use insults, denigrating remarks, and lies when they report general information regarding Ecuador. [passage omitted]

Deputy Claims Congress President Hindering Peace Talks

PA1307032595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Loyda Carriel from "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Conservative Party Deputy Freddy Bravo warned Congress President Dr. Heinz Moeller that next week he will begin taking steps to push for a military trial against the Congress president for obstructing peace negotiations with Peru, following statements Moeller made to various media. Bravo said Moeller released confidential information that should have been kept within the National Security Council, adding that he should be tried by the council.

[Begin recording] [Bravo] In the evening, their leader Abdala Bucaram said the political trial motion had failed. Therefore, we are not interested in that. Nevertheless, we are rather concerned about the fact that the Congress president is hindering the negotiations. I have here some documents the international press obtained from the traitor. This is treason to the fatherland. I will not stop from taking action in the face of this, because, from what I know, on Saturday evening he very much endangered the talks that have, more or less, been leading to detente between the two countries.

[Unidentified reporter] How will you act?

[Bravo] In accordance with the provisions of the Military Criminal Code and the National Security Law. This

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is how we will act. We will not stop to think about taking action on this. [end recording]

The threat made by Conservative Party Deputy Freddy Bravo against Congress President Heinz Moeller will reportedly be carried out next week.

Foreign Minister Says Mine Removal Almost Complete

PA1307132495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Jul 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba [title as received] stated that over 80 percent of the mines along the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border have been deactivated, with the remaining 20 percent to be completed in a few days.

In a statement to journalists, Fernandez de Cordoba said Ecuador has made a tremendous effort to remove the mines from the border area with more than 80 percent of the mines already deactivated and removed. He added that he hopes the deactivation will be complete in a few days.

Peru

Ponce: Peru Fulfills Commitments With MOMEP Observers

PY1307210895 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jun 95 p a4

[FBIS Translated Text] Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce Vivanco yesterday declared that the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol are fully aware that Peru has meticulously fulfilled all of the commitments assumed with the Ecuador-Peru Military Observers Mission (MOMEP) within the framework of the Itamaraty Peace Declaration, "the future progress of which is subject to the materialization of the demilitarized zone" recommended by that group.

In statements disclosed yesterday afternoon by the Foreign Ministry, Ponce first referred to the suspension on 26 June of the meeting of diplomatic representatives of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol guarantor countries, to which he went together with his Ecuadoran counterpart Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba.

He also referred to the press note issued in Brasilia on that same date after the meeting.

About the document, drafted together with Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, and U.S. representatives, he said that "it reveals the great negotiation efforts made regarding subjects of significant importance for the best development of the process stemming from the Itamaraty Peace Declaration."

He also noted the confidence of the guarantor countries that the consultations currently under way by the deputy foreign ministers of the respective governments will yield positive results.

He said that the Peruvian Foreign Ministry fully agrees with the stance of the guarantor countries in demanding "the complete fulfillment of the decisions reached throughout the peace-seeking process" in order to be able to continue exercising with responsibility the juridical commitments they share, according to the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

He said that in order to be in a better condition to reach these objectives, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry hopes to be able to enjoy the understanding and responsible attitude of the media of both countries regarding the need to maintain a reliable information policy, which takes into account the agreement on the confidentiality necessary in a diplomatic negotiation process until it ends.

Deputy Minister Ponce ended by stating that the Foreign Ministry will keep the people adequately informed about the progress made toward the fulfillment of the commitments adopted within the framework of this delicate issue.

Ecuador Conceals Border Stronghold From Rio Guarantors

PY1307014395 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 29 Jun 95 p A2

[FBIS Translated Text] A Peruvian Foreign Ministry source reported yesterday that the Ecuadoran Government has concealed information of a military nature from the Ecuadoran-Peruvian Mission of Military Observers (MOMEP), consisting of military officers from the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol — Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States — in order to obtain enormous advantages of a strategic nature in the conflict zone in the Condor Mountains.

The source added that this maneuver violates the peace agreements of Itamaraty and Montevideo.

Ecuador described the post of Banderas, located only 2 km from Peruvian territory, as if it were a small garrison with fewer than 100 troops armed with light weapons.

But Banderas is in fact a stronghold, with approximately 1,000 soldiers who are equipped with the most modern short barrel weapons and with lethal ground-to-ground and ground-to-air SAM HN-5A, SAM 16-IGLA, and

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Blowpipe missiles, which were purchased recently by Quito from Bulgaria and other countries.

These missiles have laser systems that chase the target. Once they are launched they correct their trajectory to the point of reaching the objective, which is thus unable to avoid impact. They can be neutralized only with electronic warfare equipment (surveillance radars).

The Banderas fortress also has U.S.-made Chaparral rocket launchers. The Chaparral is a multiple rocket launcher installed on an M-730 tracked vehicle that can be moved rapidly without being detected. The M-730 carries a minimum of eight reserve missiles inside, five crewmen, and supplies for three days. In addition to radar, it also has an Infrared Frontal Exploration Detector (FLIR) installed on the front part of the launcher.

The rockets have a range of between 6 and 7 km, which will allow the Ecuadoran forces to attack and easily isolate the troops at PV-1 [Watch Post One] in the event of a resumption of the conflict in the region.

The Puma helicopters that Ecuador purchased from France not long ago are also stationed in Banderas. They are gunships used for strategic bombing, propelled by two turboprop engines. In addition to their capacity for nuclear weapons, they carry a 20 mm artillery gun, cruise missiles, laser-controlled radar, fire-controlled radar, and 7.62 mm machine guns.

In contrast the Peruvian watch post PV-1 shelters only 50 soldiers equipped with AKM rifles, grenades, and machine guns, in compliance with the Itamaraty agreement.

According to our source, during the inspection visit to Coangos and Banderas by the MOMEP delegation, which was then headed by Brazilian Division General Candido Vargas de Freire, the Ecuadoreans camouflaged their true potential and showed unarmed helicopters, portraying them as supply ships to carry provisions to the deployed personnel.

Analysts claim that Banderas should remain as a watch post similar to the Peruvian PV-1. It is believed, however, that it also has the means for modern satellite communications, because General Paco Moncayo Gallegos, the current general commander of the Ecuadoran Army, used to receive and transmit reports on the development of the conflict, updated from minute to minute, going to and from the war room headquartered in Quito.

Banderas, then, was the center of operations during the entire conflict at the beginning of the year, and not only a small base, as the Ecuadoreans wanted the guarantors to believe.

Police Dismantle New Armed Shining Path Group in Lima

PY1307212395 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 4 Jul 95 p A4

[FBIS Translated Text] Terrorism has suffered a new blow with the arrest in Lima of six subversive elements by National Police agents. With these arrests the police have dismantled a new armed apparatus organized within the Shining Path [SL].

In addition, another nine terrorists who had participated in a series of dynamite attacks against public and private premises, as well as in the destruction of high tension pylons, were arrested in various provinces.

National Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote) agents, following a thorough investigation, discovered that a new branch called Plan Nueva Red [New Network Plan] had been organized within the SL. This new branch was to have replaced People's Aid of Peru, which had been dismantled by the police.

The Dincote agents raided a house on 417 Arequipa Avenue in San Martin de Porres, where they arrested SL members Emilio Romero Mera and Maria Isabel Linares.

During the operation terrorists Hugo Jorge Amanzo Lopez, 28, and Clavier Sergio Llully Nunez, 29, among others, were also arrested.

Police Deny Shining Path Held Fourth Plenary Meeting

PY1307234295 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 5 Jul 95 p A4

["Text" of official communique No. 11-95-DNPNP/DINFO issued by the Peruvian National Police on 5 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding recent press reports referring to information allegedly attributed to terrorist organizations about perpetrated or planned attacks, the public is hereby informed:

1. The document published on 3 July entitled "Agreement of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the SL [Shining Path] Central Committee: May 95" is fictitious, as there is no information or evidence to prove that a fourth plenary meeting was held. The last information at hand is only about the third plenary meeting, which was disclosed by the main leader of this organization on the occasion of his arrest.

2. Mention is made of the implementation of the fourth stage of the sixth military plan, but there is proof that

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they have only implemented the third stage of the sixth military plan.

3. Moreover, an article published on 8 May by a local weekly talks about the third plenary meeting of the central committee, mentioning "Comrade Miguel" and another individual as secretary generals of the various regional committees, which is not normal for the SL.

4. The aforementioned documents, although they differ in content and dates, have noticeable graphical characteristics that show they were drafted by the same person, whose identity is currently being investigated.

The police commander warns the public to avoid being taken in by false information that may cause alarm and unrest, and urges the various sectors of the media to not believe unscrupulous individuals who may offer false information, recommending that they always verify its authenticity in order to avoid confusing public opinion.

Commentary Notes 'Pleasant Surprise' With U.S. Envoy's Praise

PY1407025195 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 5 Jul 95 p A2

[Commentary by columnist Manuel d'Ornellas: "Time for Praise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was a pleasant surprise to listen to U.S. Ambassador Alvin Adams yesterday, praising the Peruvian people's efforts to overcome the scourge of terrorism and hyperinflation under the administration of President Fujimori.

It was likewise satisfying to hear him say that in the April elections the public crowned that effort with a categorical confirmation of the power bestowed upon the president through the ballot boxes in 1990.

As Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama said very aptly afterwards, Peruvians and Americans have not always been on good terms in recent years — and particularly, we would add, after the 5 April 1992 "self-coup." However, as the Congress president said in his impromptu message during the dedication of the new U.S. diplomatic mission, the two countries have always spoken with the frankness of good friends. Without double talk or tricks.

It would be appropriate to mention that former Ambassador Anthony Quainton was also present at the ceremony, and laid the cornerstone for the building, designed by Peruvian architect Fort Brescia and his American wife, that some have described as a "mix between Disneyland and Fort Knox." But as we all know, there is no accounting for taste...

In any case, Ambassador Adams' encouraging words coincide with an international campaign [cargamonton] against the Fujimori administration because of the congressional approval and later presidential promulgation of the two controversial amnesty laws. The U.S. ambassador's praise could perhaps deter the stampede of criticism from foreign presidents, feared, perhaps unjustifiably, by Foreign Ministry officials.

So all of a sudden, apparently, Peruvian relations with the United States appear to be more solid than expected. But with Washington one never knows; and so much less when the Democrats are in power, although they are now overwhelmed by the Republicans in Congress. Peru's relations with the bankers from New York or with the oil lords from Houston were stronger than those with the Potomac River bureaucrats.

This is proof that Ambassador Adams' remarks yesterday, upon the occasion of the anniversary of his country's independence and the cheerful dedication of the new embassy, are no less important.

State of Emergency Extended in Cusco Provinces

PY1307210695 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The state of emergency has been extended for 60 days in the provinces of Paruro, Acomayo, Chumbivilcas, and (Canaficanchis) of Cusco Department. This measure was adopted because a disturbance of internal order prevails in those regions.

Cuba's Castro To Attend Fujimori's Inauguration 28 Jul

PY1307205995 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 6 Jul 95 p a5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Government sources yesterday confirmed that Cuban President Fidel Castro would arrive on 28 July to attend President Alberto Fujimori's inauguration.

Our sources said that the Cuban leader's presence, in response to a personal invitation extended by President Fujimori, has been confirmed.

Castro was in Lima on a five-hour unofficial visit in December 1971 during Juan Velasco's administration. He was on his way back from Chile, which he had been visiting at the invitation of late Chilean President Salvador Allende. On that occasion Castro stayed at the Jorge Chavez airport, where he was greeted by authorities of the Peruvian military government. [passage omitted]

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Venezuela

Interior Minister: Situation at Border 'Still Serious'

PA1307181895 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Pedro Prado; from "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guasdualito Mayor Jesus Antonio Rojas' kidnapping proves that the situation on the Venezuelan border is still serious, Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom said at Miraflores Palace.

The Venezuelan Government does not yet have much information on the Guasdualito mayor's kidnapping in Apure State. The statement was made by Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom, who again commented on Mayor Rojas' kidnapping by a guerrilla cell operating on the Venezuelan-Colombian border. Rojas' whereabouts are unknown.

The interior minister expects the authorities will continue taking firm action, without giving thought to the circumstances surrounding this incident.

[Begin Escovar's recording] This proves that the Council of Ministers' decision to maintain the suspension of constitutional guarantees on the border region was justified, because the situation there remains delicate, which obligates the Venezuelan Government to strengthen and multiply its efforts on the border. [end recording]

Escovar Salom also denied comment on the Brazilian honorary consul's arrest in Amazonas State.

Defense Minister: Colombia Must Strengthen Border Surveillance

PA1407042395 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Jul 95

[From "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is still no word on the investigations the Venezuelan Government is carrying out on the kidnapping of Guasdualito Mayor Jesus Antonio Rojas near the Colombian border.

Regarding the kidnapping of a Venezuelan mayor in a municipality near the border, Defense Minister Moises Orozco Graterol said that Venezuela is not totally responsible for the entire situation and that the Colombian Government should also exercise more surveillance in the border areas.

Regarding Rojas' kidnapping, the defense minister said that the theater of operations is functioning, but the length of the border makes intelligence work difficult. The kidnappers are rebels who know the area very well.

[Begin Orozco recording] Right now we are carrying out the appropriate operations. Any information or statement I make could endanger the hostage's life. [end recording]

Negotiations for Mayor's Release Rejected

PA1207193095 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Report by anchorman Antonio Jota for "The News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister General Moises Orozco Graterol has ruled out the possibility that Venezuelan authorities will negotiate for the release of Guasdualito Mayor Jesus Antonio Rojas, whom Colombian guerrillas have reportedly been holding hostage for several days.

Referring to the case, in which the Colombian guerrilla groups' culpability is now being recognized, the defense minister added: All possibilities must be considered. He added that operations continue but the long border makes intelligence work difficult.

[Begin Orozco recording] The appropriate actions are being taken. Any information we may give you, meaning any statements I might make, could endanger the hostage's life. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas said the Elenos, as members of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] are called, are responsible for kidnapping the Guasdualito mayor.

President Approves Armed Forces Personnel Changes

PA1307225195 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 11 Jul 95 pp 1, 12

[Article by Berenice Gomez Velasquez]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the retirement of several officers, and the promotion of others on 5 July, the need to implement adjustments in the various branches of the Armed Forces and within the National Guard was immediately recognized. This is why the president of the Republic proceeded to sign the replacement selection orders even thought promotions within the National Guard have not yet been signed... or they are a well kept secret.

No Changes at the Military Household

The promotion of Army Brigadier General Ruben Matias Rojas Perez from the Military Household to the 3d Infantry Division had originally been planned to take place this July. The transfer conforms to the obvious and logical need to appoint commanders to large units.

As simple as that: logical and necessary in the life of all military officers, most of all in the career of those

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generals who harbor any expectation, real or remote, of being promoted.

The transfer did not take place because of another obvious reason: allegations originating from Panama with respect to a coup attempt against Caldera.

The brigadier general [BG] will remain at the Military Household since any attempt to move this officer, who is a few meters behind the president's back, will be automatically interpreted as a confirmation of the accusations.

The promotions that have taken place within the Army thus far were limited to the level of large operations units. Army Division General James Prieto Navas, head of the National Armed Forces (FAN) Unified Command (CUFAN), has now been appointed as Army chief of operations. He will be replaced by Army General Raul Salazar Rodriguez, formerly commander of the 3d Infantry Division.

In turn, Salazar Rodriguez will be replaced by Army BG Jose Napoleon Romero who will be leaving the 31st Infantry Brigade, and will be replaced by Army BG Eliecer Hurtado Sucre.

BG Erasmo Lara Ortega has been appointed as commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, while Army BG Ruben Medina Sanchez will head the 2d Infantry Brigade.

Army BG Noel Martinez Ochoa replaces BG Rosales Ramirez as commander of the 4th Infantry Division. Rosales has been appointed as the new Army deputy inspector. On the other hand, BG Ruben Aly Palmar Lopez will continue as commander of the 5th Infantry Jungle Division, and BG Eduardo Mejias Itriago will continue as head of the 6th Division.

Army BG Nelson Rivero as been appointed as commander of the Armored Brigade, and Theater of Operations will continue under the command of BG Rodriguez Castillo.

FAV [Venezuelan Air Force]: Things Remain Almost the Same

The (FAV) Command Staff will continue almost the same because FAV BG Leon Campos will be the commander of the General Command Staff; (FAV) BG Combat Pilot Arturo Garcia will be the commander of the El Libertador Air Base - BAEL - in Maracay; and (FAV) BG Frank Lares will be the logistical commander. Several other changes have been made in air bases but they have not been officially reported.

In the Navy

Only a few changes were made in the Navy: The new inspector general is VA [Vice Admiral] Tito Manlio Rincon Bravo; the new commander of the General Command Staff is VA Gonzalo Gomez Jaen; the new naval logistics commander is CA [Captain] Hernandez Ravago; the commander of the BN [Naval Base] Agustin Armario es CA Gonzalo Acosta Gonzalez, and the commander of the Eastern Naval Zone is CA Ruben Torres Leal. The latter announcements have not been confirmed officially.

No Decision at the National Guard

It is believed that several changes will be made in the National Guard and there is a climate of uncertainty in the corps because officers do not know where they will be stationed. It is known that the list of replacements was sent belatedly to the president's office. However, it is not known if he has signed it already or if he did so and for some good reason, they are keeping it a secret.

The truth is that after the tension triggered by the fact that the promotion list was recalled three times because of aforementioned problems, the officers are now in an uncomfortable situation. They do not know if they are staying, leaving, being replaced, or where they are going to, and to what positions. They only know that the colonel positions at the Iaeden [Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense] are very few.

And What Lies Ahead

As if this were not enough, there will be more changes in December, so get ready and calm your nerves.

Fedecamaras, Copei Criticize Matos' Economic Plan

PA1307175995 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Zayda Pereira from "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Luis Raul Matos Azocar's proposal to stabilize the national economy within the framework of the Anti-Inflation Pact has caused profound disagreements among various sectors in Venezuela.

Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] President Edgar Romero Nava stressed that the postponing of decisions to increase gasoline prices and to devaluate the currency will make their effects more painful when they are enforced. He pointed out that the government is entitled to postpone these decisions; however, there were no announcements of substance when Matos Azocar said that these measures were unnecessary because there would be alternative plans.

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Romero Nava believes, therefore, that this is again a decision made at a political, instead of economic, level.

[Begin Romero Nava recording] The price increase in gasoline is apparently an issue the government wants to handle politically. We have said that economic problems must have economic solutions, no? [pauses] The government insists that the decision is President Caldera's, that he must make the decision and announce it in a timely manner. [end recording]

Following a meeting with the finance minister, however, the Orange Party, the Movement Toward Socialism [MAS] decided to strongly support the Matos Plan. MAS President Gustavo Marquez stressed that Matos' theory is correct and that MAS supports the Fiscal Stabilization Fund for special revenues, which would be used to pay off priorities in full. MAS rejects shock measures.

Meanwhile, Copei [Social Christian Party] Secretary General Donald Ramirez also commented.

[Begin recording] [Marquez, in progress] ...avoid a sudden change that will definitely cause the failure of the Anti-Inflation Pact's efforts; it is a wise and logical measure. This does not mean that these decisions cannot be reviewed in the future.

[Ramirez] The contents of the Matos Plan does not in any way contribute to the solution of the country's problems, or even to the creation of the necessary conditions for an eventual signing of the Anti-Inflation Pact. [end recording]

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